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## OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

*News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs*

### A Message from the Director

#### Dear Community Members:

OAPIA truly believes in the Mayor's priorities of improving the quality of life to create a healthy, green, and livable city. OAPIA had the opportunity to work with other District government agencies to provide assistance and resources to District Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents and AAPI owned businesses throughout Fiscal Year 2014.



OAPIA partnered with the Office of the Clean City (OCC) to sign up 50 AAPI business owners throughout the District to participate in the District's "Adopt-A-Block" program. "Adopt-A-Block" encourages community members to work together to keep their neighborhoods clean.

Furthermore, OAPIA partnered with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to raise awareness among AAPI owned businesses in the District on the issue of synthetic marijuana. OAPIA collected pledges from these businesses to not sell synthetic marijuana or other drug paraphernalia, promoted the harmful effects of synthetic drugs, and provided information on enforced regulation requirements.

Lastly, OAPIA and the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) launched the AAPI Tenants' Rights Campaign, which presented information on tenants' rights in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese to the AAPI community.

I encourage everyone to visit our website at [www.apia.dc.gov](http://www.apia.dc.gov) for up to date information on ongoing and forthcoming initiatives.

Warm Wishes,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo  
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OAPIA News

## OAPIA Presents: Tenants' Rights Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet



The District of Columbia has some of the strongest tenant protection laws in the country; however, some residents may be unaware of the resources available to them, and they could be unsure of who to contact if and when their landlord is unresponsive to them.

To help educate residents on their rights as renters in the District, the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) partnered with the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) to create the Tenants' Rights Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet. The Tenants' Rights FAQ sheet highlights eight important renter issues and is intended to be used as a guide on how to resolve some of the most difficult situations that arise for renters in the District.

- [Tenants' Rights FAQ Sheet - English](#)
- [Tenants' Rights FAQ Sheet - Chinese](#)
- [Tenants' Rights FAQ Sheet - Korean](#)
- [Tenants' Rights FAQ Sheet - Vietnamese](#)

The documents are also available on OAPIA's website [here](#).

For a more comprehensive fact sheet on tenants' rights in the District of Columbia, please refer to OTA's [Tenant Bill of Rights](#). This document may also be found in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese on OAPIA's website [here](#).

If you would like more information or have a question related to the Tenants' Rights FAQ sheet, please email Christina Truong at [christina.truong@dc.gov](mailto:christina.truong@dc.gov).

### OAPIA Welcomes Fall Intern

Li Xiao is a rising second-year graduate student majoring in



**Li Xiao**

English and American literature at Chongqing University in China. Li received her bachelor's degree in English from Hebei University. She has previously interned at a joint cooperative college and with an interpretation company. Through those experiences, Li gained knowledge and honed her skills in the areas of communication and organization.

In her spare time, Li loves reading, especially works from her favorite writer, Toni Morrison. She also enjoys volunteering; Li previously volunteered as a language instructor for two years in Chongqing, China by helping English language learners practice their oral English with native speakers. Li is currently placed at OAPIA as an intern from The Washington Center. She is motivated to learn from her opportunity in DC, and desires to engage in communication with diverse cultural communities.

## Greetings from the Community Outreach Assistant



Hi everyone, my name is Yiyang "Vivian" Guo, bilingual community outreach assistant with the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

### **How long have you been in DC?**

I have been in DC for almost three years. I moved here in August 2011 to pursue my master's degree at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

### **What brings you to DC and what do you enjoy most about DC?**

DC is the capital of America and therefore has a special influence in the world. Its architecture, historic stories, and international community attracted me in the first place. DC is a "cool city" that attracts young students and professionals from around the country and the world. I enjoy the multicultural and international facade of DC, while my American friends have refined my understanding of

American culture. DC is a city full of opportunities, passion, and excitement. As a young professional in this international metropolis, I am passionate about my job as a public servant, and also enjoy spending my free time at abundant venues that the city has to offer.

### **How do you stay engaged within the community?**

My position at OAPIA as a community outreach assistant has enabled me to engage with the AAPI community, which is composed of individuals from various ages, national origins, and walks of life. I work mostly with the Chinese speaking community. I deliver information to them through in-person visits, the use of ethnic media, and through community based organizations, and hear back their concerns while trying to help them. I assist them with their cases, including issues relating to healthcare insurance and housing. I translate vital government documents into Chinese so that my community can keep up with latest government information. I also interpret at informational workshops for the Chinese community. Engaging with the community is rewarding, as I get to serve the community and better understand their crucial needs, and help the public sector to better serve the community through traditional and new initiatives.

### **Own Words**



Life is a beach. I'm grateful for what I have and what I have to give.

If you enjoyed reading this profile, please visit [I am AAPI in DC](#) to read additional community member profiles or to submit your own profile!

## Spotlight: Washington, DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF)



The Washington, DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF), hosted by Ceasar Productions, is the most celebrated film festival screening feature, documentary and short films made from, of, and about the Global South Asian Community. DCSAFF is committed to exhibiting films from South Asia (i.e. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal) and within the Indian diaspora.

The festival is dedicated to providing filmmakers, actors, and industry professionals a platform to showcase their work, as well as creating an environment where filmmakers may exchange ideas with one another, and interact with discerning and diverse audiences, and journalists. Three days of screenings, post-screening discussions, industry panels, award ceremony, special events, nightly networking parties, red carpet gala, media attention and packed audiences build an awareness of South Asian cinema, entertain, and educate North Americans about the South Asian countries, and add to the amazing cultural diversity of Washington DC. This year's Washington, DC South Asian Film Festival will run from September 12, 2014 to September 14, 2014.

For more information on [DCSAFF](#) or ways to get involved, please visit [here](#).

## September is National Suicide Prevention Month



September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide is the third-leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24 nationally. It results in approximately 4,400 lives lost each year in this age group. Washington, DC has the lowest suicide rate in the country (51st), with only 6 suicides per 100,000 people. In 2007, suicide was the fifth leading cause of death for youth ages 15-19; and the sixth leading cause of death for adults 20-44. Despite having a low rate of suicide deaths, youth in DC are struggling with thoughts of suicide at alarming rates.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a 24-hour, toll-free, confidential suicide prevention hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. By dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255), the call is routed to the nearest crisis center in the Lifeline's national network of more than 150 crisis centers. The Lifeline's national network of local crisis centers provide crisis counseling and mental health referrals day and night.

For more information on suicide prevention or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [DC Department of Behavioral Health \(DBH\)](#)
- [I Am the Difference: DC Youth Suicide Prevention Program](#)
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

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